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## U.S. Equipment Still In Hands of Iranians

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Military hardware equipped with some of the most-secret U.S. defense technology remains in Iranian hands after the collapse of the U.S.-backed government there.

Private and government sources say plans to remove or destroy some of the equipment were not acted on.

The most-sensitive weapon involved is the F-14 with its Phoenix missile and associated electronics. Eighty of the fighters were sold to Iran as part of an enormous military buildup begun by the now-exiled Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi.

The F-14 is the U.S. Navy's chief fleet defense plane with its on-board radar and computer that can track nearly 30 potential targets and fire missiles at six of them.

One knowledgeable Washington source said yesterday that the situation in Iran was such that the United States would have to assume that the technology already was compromised. Yesterday the former commander of Iran's air force confirmed that sophisticated planes and related equipment bought from the United States are at the disposal of the new regime.

**THE FALL OF** the government, with the acquiescence of the military, came only a week after the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Air Force Gen. David Jones, assured interviewers that U.S.-supplied equipment was secure.

The F-14 is manufactured by Grumman Aerospace Corp. Its 450 employees in Iran and their 500 dependents were evacuated at the direction of the Iranian military. One source said the Iranians made it clear that they would stop any attempt to remove the airplanes or associated equipment.

One U.S. citizen recently returned from Iran said he was appalled to learn of U.S. government assurances about the security of the sophisticated weapons. Events in Iran over the last month have given no basis for that confidence, this source insisted.

Concerns within the government and Congress about the security of such sophisticated weaponry surfaced amid controversy last year when the Carter administration convinced Congress to permit the sale of an airborne computer and radar air defense system to Iran.

At that time, CIA Director Stansfield Turner raised serious questions about the ability to protect U.S. secrets from what he predicted was sure to be a determined Soviet spying effort.

One source familiar with the situation in Iran said last night that the chaos surrounding the collapse of the government would offer the Soviet Union a better opportunity.

**MEANWHILE**, U.S. contingency plans for a quick evacuation of Americans from major cities in Iran remained ready as officials continued to weigh the danger there.

Despite a number of hitches that developed yesterday as the United States moved to "pre-position" six large HH-53C "Super Jolly" helicopters at bases near Iran, it appears that the Pentagon and the State Department have put one Iran contingency plan into an advanced state of preparedness.

The helicopters, which have a range of 575 miles, were originally scheduled to be stationed at Incirlik airbase in Turkey. However, according to a broadcast by Ankara Radio, the Turkish government objected to a unit of 69 Marines that accompanied the helicopters.

"It is being made clear to the Turkish public that the stationing of U.S. Marines to be sent to Iran and the granting of permission to this effort by the Turkish government is out of the question," said the government-owned radio station.

**WHAT HAPPENED** after that remains unclear. The Pentagon, which said the Marine unit was intended to reinforce the 19 Marines guarding the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, said the helicopters had been redeployed to "various forward bases" outside of Turkey.

"We have a longstanding policy of not responding to questions about contingency plans," said a Pentagon spokesman.

By themselves the helicopters, which can carry about 60 persons each, could not make much of a dent in the problem of how to stage a quick evacuation of the 8,031 Americans believed to be in Iran. That includes 820 U.S. military personnel and 120 civilian government employees, along with 23 government dependents.

However, there was official optimism that Iran would reopen Tehran airport to allow commercial and U.S. military transport flights to resume.

Confusion reigned at the airport yesterday. According to a State Department spokesman, pro-Khomeini guards there arrested all 21 members of the U.S. Military Airlift Command unit that was coordinating flights in and out of the airport.

The military group was taken to Khomeini headquarters where, like several other groups of Americans arrested yesterday, they received profuse apologies and were freed.